

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 898

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to designate May 19, 2008, as “Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Day” and July 21-27, 2008, as “Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Week” in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, on May 19 and July 21-27 of this year, recognition will be given to Phelan-McDermid Syndrome throughout the world by members of the medical community, healthcare organizations, and families of those afflicted by the disease; and

WHEREAS, this recognition will draw attention to the importance of accurately detecting and treating this rare genetic disorder, which is caused by the absence of genes on the distal end of the long-arm of chromosome 22; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 1988, the genetic deletion was identified by the cytogeneticist Dr. Katy Phelan, a Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, while the numbers of individuals diagnosed with Phelan-McDermid Syndrome remains relatively small, recognition of the disease on a wider scale will raise awareness and bring much-needed support to the individuals suffering from the disorder, the family members of those individuals, and the advocacy groups which provide assistance to the families; and

WHEREAS, one such group is the 22q13 Deletion Foundation Support Group, which operates on a worldwide scale to provide more than 300 families the opportunity to become apprised of the latest medical news, to share experiences, to exchange healthcare ideas and issues, and to create friendships and a valued support network; and

WHEREAS, it is the express desire of this Body that children no longer suffer from improper diagnoses and that care be provided to those afflicted with Phelan-McDermid Syndrome on a much quicker timetable; and

WHEREAS, it is our hope that the children diagnosed with Phelan-McDermid Syndrome will receive better healthcare resources and a higher quality of life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate May 19, 2008, as “Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Day” and July 21-27, 2008, as “Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Week” in Tennessee, encouraging all Tennesseans to pause in consideration and reflection of those suffering from the disorder and offering our support and encouragement to the families of those diagnosed with Phelan-McDermid Syndrome.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we recognize Dr. Katy Phelan for her tireless work in identifying the genetic disorder and 22q13 Deletion Foundation Support Group for its unwavering support of the families of those diagnosed with Phelan-McDermid Syndrome.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.